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A mechanism with an electric motor or internal-combustion engine is needed, which can effect the handling of earth in small excavations and which can also transport it to the surface or load it on existing transport machinery. The mechanism proposed should have a productivity of at least 3-5 cubic meters per hour and should have small dimensions.

3. Light Mobile Crane for Construction Railroad Structures

Loading and unloading operations are the largest and most labor-consuming on any construction. The use of the existing cranes mounted on caterpillar or automobile traction is economical when there are large and constant volumes of work.

A crane, easily moved with a truck over earth, with a capacity of 0.5 ton and an arm 4-6 meters in length and a lift of 4 meters, is needed. The crane should be able to revolve, and should operate on electricity or by its own motor.

4. Device for Unloading and Loading 25-Meter Rails Onto Flatcars

The existing designs of removable devices and cranes installed on railroad flatcars for loading and unloading rails require a considerable expenditure of labor and time for assembly and dismantling, and are heavy and cumbersome.

A light removable device for ordinary railroad flatcars and for gondola cars is needed for loading and unloading 25-meter rails at the rate of not more than one hour per pair of coupled cars. The devices proposed should permit the unloading of rails along the track and should guarantee safety.

The devices should be easily and quickly mounted and dismantled with a minimum expenditure of time and labor.

5. Standard Dismountable Cement Plant

At present there is no dismountable cement plant for comparatively small volumes of work at one point.

For the construction of small and medium structures and houses having 500-1,500 cubic meters of concrete laying, a dismountable cement plant is needed. The plant should have a productivity of up to 100 cubic meters per day.

All processes in the plant should be mechanized. The plant should be easily assembled and dismantled and capable of being carried on automobiles. The plant should be designed with a service life of 5 years and should be adapted for work in both summer and winter.

6. Machinery and Devices for Mechanized Operations in Handling Earth Thrown out by Blasting

Handling the pile of earth formed by blasting with a dragline moving in the area of the pile is difficult because of the weakness of the earth crumbled by the explosion.

In the excavation itself the considerable unevennesses formed after the explosion also present an obstacle to automobile transport and other machinery.

High-speed economical methods of mechanized operations are needed to remove from excavations earth remaining after blasting. The machinery and devices should permit the gathering and removal of earth of all types, including rocky earths.

One first prize of 5,000 rubles and two second prizes of 3,000 rubles have been established for each field. The competition closes 31 December 1950.

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RR MINISTRY SLOWS RAIL DELIVERIES -- Moscow, Izvestiya, 24 Aug 50

In preparing for winter, some plants cannot finish the construction of sidings because the Ministry of Transportation is holding up the delivery of railroad rails used on main-line railroads.

"SO" LOCOMOTIVES FOR VOLGA POWER PROJECTS -- Kiev, Pravda Ukrainy, 23 Sep 50

The Locomotive Building Plant imeni Oktyabr'skaya Revolyutsiya in Voroshilovgrad has received an order for four series SO locomotives for the Volga electric power construction projects.

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